

THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!!

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2015



Summer Services June 21ST – Sept. 13TH
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 AM
Saturday Evening Family Movie 7:00 p.m.

Waterton United Church PO Box 94 (108 Clematis Ave.)
Waterton Park, AB, T0K 2M0
Year Round Ph/ Rentals (403) 859-2242
watertonunitedchurch.com

Secretary's email: caroluanne@gmail.com

(If you have received this letter by regular mail and would like to continue receiving it, and have an email address, please help us update our mailing list. Comments are welcomed.)

2015 GUEST CLERGY SCHEDULE

MAY 17 TH , Lethbridge	MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Certified lay leader, from Southminster U.C.,
JUNE 21 st :	MRS. LISA WAITES, CHAPLAIN, Medicine Hat College, from Redcliff
JUNE 28 th	MR. DARRELL REINE, L.P.M. , Westminster United Church, Regina
JULY 5 th	REV. BEV DIDUCK, Balgonie United Church, Saskatchewan
JULY 12 th	DR. ED BARDOCK, PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERISOR and lay leader
JULY 19 th	MRS. MARIE BARR, L.P.M., Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge, Saskatchewan
JULY 26 TH & AUGUST 2 ND	REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON, now of Victoria
AUGUST 9 th	REV. RANDY CROZMAN, Orchard Valley United Church, Nova Scotia (Waterton UC Divinity Student, mid-70s)
AUGUST 16 TH	REV. JOYCE SASSE, Pincher Creek
AUGUST 23 rd	PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA, Lethbridge
AUGUST 30 th	REV. NANCY NOURSE, Northminster U.C., Calgary
SEPTEMBER 6 th	REV. DR. AUSTIN FENNELL, Lethbridge, with McKillop Choir
SEPTEMBER 13 th	MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Certified Lay leader, Southminster UC, Lethbridge
DECEMBER 19 TH ,	REV. BRENT WOODARD, Pincher Creek Pastoral Charge

OPEN A.A. MEETINGS, THURS. AT 7:30 P.M. IN JULY & AUGUST.

JUNE CONCERT, AS PART OF THE WATERTON WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Tickets are \$10.00 AT THE DOOR! *\$5.00 for students (College/University).

Refreshments.

JUNE 28th, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Dale Ketcheson, (classical and flamenco guitar) and Billy McCarroll, (upright bass) will be joined by well-known soloist, Sheena Lawson. They will round out their eclectic program with an intricate jazz jam. This is Dale's 13TH h Waterton U.C. Concert! Please check web-site and/or watch for posters and news of other concerts, possibly t.b.a.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL GUEST CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS. YOUR MELODIES AND HARMONIES INSPIRE US!
And a toast of deep appreciation is hereby extended to all accompanists!

SATURDAY NIGHT FAMILY MOVIES 7 p.m. In July & August, we will do our best to show new movies on DVD. The movies are free (no pop corn), donations are welcome. Bringing a cushion is probably a good idea! Some of the movies lining up for the summer are “Home”, “Hitachi”, “Paddington”, “From Up on Poppy Hill”, “Song of the Sea”, and a special for teens and adults, the classic “Avatar”. Watch for posters around town, on the web-site and FB.

MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR
Dr. Ed Bardock, Lethbridge, (Lead clergy on July 16th this summer).



Over the years that I have been a part of the Waterton team of very diligent volunteers I have been deeply impressed with the teamwork displayed in listening and attending to the needs of the congregation, the clergy and the very major efforts they have dedicated to the upkeep, operation and upgrading of the facilities. With the work they have undertaken on upgrading this year, the Church will be in excellent shape for years to come and be a welcoming beacon to all who visit the Park!

In Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is a substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen” is a verse that quickly came to me as I thought of all of the work and contributions so many people have made to keep the facilities in excellent shape and the finances for operation in check. As Christians we walk by faith and not by sight and the Congregations, both past and present, have successfully met the challenges to give us all a wonderful place of worship in a setting that is a marvel of God’s creation. In each of us there is a measure of faith as Romans 12:3 states “God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.” But I often find, as I am sure you do, that sometimes you have to stir it up and work that faith out of us to bring it into play.

That leads me not only to my personal view of faith, but relating it to our work lives, our church commitments and our daily interactions with others. I like to think of faith as both a noun and a verb. Faith as a noun is how many people view their faith Today. When asked, the response often is “I am a Christian” or, alternatively, “I am United Church...Baptist...Anglican...Catholic.” That’s faith as a noun; however religious affiliation does not fully define faith. That response defines a state of being firm in the promises of God based on affiliation and then unwaveringly believing that you will receive the fulfillment of those promises. There certainly are instances wherein faith moves to action when that stance is adopted.

A more active definition of faith is found in the verb tense simply because faith really is an action word. It requires sacrifice at times...requires forward movement to gain the promise or goal. It is like a muscle that needs to be stretched, pulled, strengthened and developed. In living out our faith, we too, need to do a spiritual workout...to stretch our faith muscles and exercise them and, like physical exercise, we may find some discomfort or pain in carrying forward the process. It takes faith to believe in a positive outcome when we are in situations that, at times, look dim and hopeless. Maybe, just maybe, God allows us to hit those dead ends so that our faith can be tested and grow.

We are all blessed and thankful that we can share our faith together in such a meaningful place.



In Faith

Dr. Ed Bardock

2013 -2014 WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

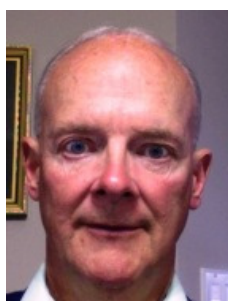
(Executive:Chair person = Barb Clay, Vice-Chair, Lynn Cameron-Thorpe, Secretary Carol Watt, Treasurer Janice Smith. Presbytery Reps, Dave & Barb Colbeck, Property leaders, Dave Colbeck & Doug Miller, Stewardship, Lou Niven.)>

			
Lil Evanoff	Carol Watt	Aynsley Baker	Lynn CameronThorpe
			
Janice Smith	Mary Yvonne Hohm	Barb Clay	Barb Colbeck
			4 .

			
Bob Clay	Dave Colbeck	Ben Hofer	Phil Ruppel
			 4
Lauren Baker	Diane Rossetti	Dr. Ed Bardock	Lou Niven



Carol Cruickshank



Doug Miller



Anne Miller

Would you like to join our Council? We have a very informal structure, fewer than 5 meetings a year. Some do not attend meetings, but contribute time and talents in various areas. Each one is precious and valued for time and wisdom so freely given! Just let us know if you are interested!

AND SPECIAL THANKS to....

***** Jim Barlisen for reviewing the books; *** Phil Ruppel for meticulous grounds-keeping;***Doug Miller, Dave Colbeck, Ben Hofer, Rob and Roddy Watt for repair and care of the building, ***Carol Cruickshank for vital A.A. leadership, poster distribution & key management,*** Diane Rossetti for on-going assistance with web-site & facebook page management *** Lil Evanoff, Concert Pioneer and Hostess Extraordinaire***Lauren Baker for taking the lead on the upcoming kitchen up-grade ***Lou Niven, for organizing the new Host/Hostess Scheduling, co-ordinating our beautiful new Honour Wall, and with Carol Watt, playing piano and/or organ*** Aynsley Baker for helping with the bookings and outreach*** Bev Tilson, Lisa Lenz-Hofer, Cathy Millar, Bob Clay & Bernie Weninger, for pitching in when it comes time to clean and decorate *** Dave Colbeck& Doug Miller for co-chairing the Property Committee; ***Doug and (5.**

Anne Miller for joining so freely in the regular work of treasury and building stewardship; * Christy Gustavison & (5. Ted Harrity for their interest and support, and to all others too numerous to mention, for your generous gifts of time, counsel, and financial support.... You know who you are!

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WE EXTEND LOVE AND PRAYER FOR PEACEFUL HEALING TO ALL THOSE STUGGLING WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS OR LOSS IN WHATEVER FORM. MAY YOU NOT FEEL ALONE AS YOU WALK IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW. In the timeless words of Psalm 139: 10 -11: *"If I take the wings of the morning, and follow to the uttermost parts of the earth, still Thou art with me."* Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Since last fall we have lost several of our extended faith family members, all of whom expressed much love for Waterton and for the United Church. Evelyn Macaulay and Nova McCollister, of Pincher Creek, Mary Stoltze of California, Joan Croskery and Eric Hohm of Lethbridge and Waterton , were valued faith leaders and are now gone on before us.....we will miss them, and we grieve for their families. We remember their gifts to us, and we are truly thankful.

A life-long Anglican and central member of the Waterton community, Cecily Parke, known to one and all as Squish, left us in September. She was a keeper of the Anglican church keys in Waterton for decades, and several clergy presided over her memorial service in St. John's Anglican Church in Pincher Creek. Her ashes were interred in the Waterton Cemetery. She was 96, and her passing marks the end of an era in Waterton.

And, to Lori Williams-Freeman, stellar Lethbridge musician and ten year veteran of our wonderful Irish Celtic summer concerts, we extend our deepest condolences on the tragic loss of her only child, Georann Nicole, 21, in October.



Georann and Lori Williams-Freeman's Celtic Concert, August, 2014.

OUR FIRST HONOUR WALL IS NEARING COMPLETION....



Our special 2011 anniversary project, a WALL OF HONOUR celebrating FRIENDS OF WATERTON, PAST AND PRESENT, is almost full. We know that Waterton is beloved by many, many people. With this in mind, we have installed a wall of names (on plaques,\$100 each.) (Each plaque = approx. 2 inches by 5 inches, with black lettering on a gold background. One or two names can be on one plaque, or e.g “The John Doe Family”). If you know of someone you wish to honour, or wish to purchase a plaque for yourself, please email Lou Niven at mlniven@toughcountry.net or phone 403 628 2036.

We are also building a “Treasure Album” which will be kept on a table underneath the Wall .The album is intended to hold a record of bios/photos/memories, of the friends of the Waterton UC. (The pages in the album will be in alphabetical order, although the plaques on the Wall cannot be alphabetical.) If you have purchased one or more plaques, please send a PAGE FOR EACH PLAQUE at your earliest convenience, by email, or by regular mail to the Church address (on front page). We look forward to building this Album and send thanks to those of you who have already done this!

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Weddings, meetings, occasional workshops, retreats and youth group sleep-overs are all part of the life of the church. Community use is welcome. We are happy to be available year-round. We can't guarantee fair weather outside, but inside, there is sanctuary!
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FEE SCHEDULE

Increased demand for our space, and the high cost of operating in a National Park has caused us to offer a fee schedule for the various uses of the church. (changes may occur...)

<u>Workshops:</u>	\$150/day or \$75/half-day
<u>Weddings/Raincheck Weddings:</u>	\$250
<u>Youth group retreats:</u>	\$75.00/day including sleeping over...
<u>Spiritual Retreats :</u>	\$20.00/night/per person.

FINANCIAL HEALTH: We continue to manage to balance our modest budget, thanks to the help of generous supporters and the Mission Support Grant from the United Church at large. Dr. Ed Bardock has played a vital role in ensuring this annual funding for Waterton UC. **ANY DONATIONS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED, AND VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.** We are indeed, a community church. Our mandate is about “the open doors of Jesus Christ”. With respect for people of all faith traditions, our work goes forward.

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REMINDER OF BOOKS and CALENDARS FOR SALE: Check out:

"HISTORY OF THE WATERTON UNITED CHURCH" was compiled so ably a few years ago by JIM GEORGE. This is a loose leaf binder “work in progress”. If you have stories to share we would be very pleased to add them. For example, Ruth Attwell’s memories were added during the Anniversary celebrations in 2011.(cost is \$18 plus mailing costs if needed.)

- **OUR PERPETUAL CALENDAR:** Through the seasons in Waterton, photos donated by Council Members, \$10...works well for records, birthdays, recorded memories...
- "TWISTS, TURNS AND TRAVELS IN MY WALK WITH GOD", by Rev. James Tyler, \$15.
- "IN THE DRY WOODS" and “LLAMAS IN THE SNOW” by Rev. Dr. Cullene Bryant, \$15.
- “LIGHT A PENNY CANDLE” by Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson, a collection of Alex’s favorite Christmas and Easter sermons. \$17. Alex is now compiling C.D.s with additional favourite sermons...current email = dralexlawson@shaw.ca / ph.250 383 1880.
- CDs of original music by Musician and Chaplain Lisa Waites \$15

Highlights of 2014-early 2015

*****GUEST CLERGY**” 2014 was the 13th summer of organizing our active season with a series of gifted and energetic clergy and lay leaders who each took a week or two to lead for us. The bookings come in early. We have a simple, transparent system in place: dates are recorded as the requests come in. **Special thanks is extended at time of this writing (May, 2015) to everyone who contributed last summer.** Each year sees some changes, some new leaders, several returning. **We appreciate the contribution that has been made by each guest clergy,** whether they are returning in a specific season (8.

or not. **NEXT YEAR'S BOOKINGS ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS... TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: CALL OR E-MAIL SOON!**

*****"MAY LONG" OPENING SERVICE,**

For the **THIRD** year in a row, we were pleased to have Bryan Huston return to lead our Sunday morning service on the May Long Week-end. A warm welcoming fellowship followed...

YOGA CLASSES ran for several weeks in the fall, and, over the winter, several **YOUTH GROUPS** gathered to focus on outdoor winter activities. Many enthusiastic comments were reported about these rental activities.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: On the Saturday before Christmas, Rev. Brent Woodard conducted our annual Christmas service. 32 faith family members shared in the event. The timeless story, Brent's message and the candlelight lifted our hearts.



A pot-luck feast with much joy and laughter completed the evening....

2015 UPGRADING PROJECTS: Plans are afoot to repaint the exterior frames of the cathedral window, install a gentle ramp access from the street, and ultimately to update the kitchen in the fall. Extra meetings, estimates, committee work and considerable time, effort and funding will be needed. We have many gifted people to call on, but can always use more help...do communicate with us if you are interested!

JULY 26TH, 2015, IS PLANNED AS A RED LETTER DAY. For those of you able to join us, we are hosting a celebration as we recognize **REV. DR. ALEX LAWSON AS MINISTER EMERITUS FOR WATERTON UNITED CHURCH!** July 26th is one of Alex's regular Sunday services, and we plan to add a presentation, tributes, special music and a gay and festive pot-luck luncheon. People are being asked to bring a salad or a dessert, dishes & cutlery. There will be time for stories and visiting. For those of you too far away to join us, please write or email messages to help us build this vital good news story. Congratulations Alex, we are honoured to be able to do this for you after your years of dedicated leadership for Waterton United Church!

2014: MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER GUEST CLERGY

(The schedule may have occasional unavoidable changes...)



MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Licenced Lay Leader from Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, will lead the “Opening Service” on May 17th. His delight with the Park is reflected here, with Mount Vimy guarding the trail....For the newsletter this year he has written:

In 2001 I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Certificate Program offered by St. Stephen’s College and since that time I have enjoyed providing pulpit supply to a number of United Churches in Southern Alberta.

This small and vital church is a sanctuary within the magnificent natural sanctuary that is Waterton National Park. Like the Park itself, the United Church of Canada welcomes all people, regardless of faith tradition. The Divine, felt in this special place, embraces all. I appreciate how a different congregation forms each week as we all are embraced in the purity of worship as people respond to the “open doors, open minds, and open hearts” of this place.

I have been fortunate to spend time in every season at the family cottage in Waterton. As life cycles along, Barbara and I now look forward to happily chaotic summers exploring the wonders of the Park with our six grand children. The legacy that we foster is a deep appreciation for this beautiful place.

Appreciation and blessing are one and the same. We sometimes say, “let’s bless the food now,” or “Bless you,” or “may this house be blessed.” Actually, we have no 10.

power to make anything more Holy than it already is. *Everything is already completely blessed*, and all the prayers in the world could not make it more blessed. We certainly could not imbue a loaf of bread or a person with more God than already lives within them. What we can do however, is to *see*, or appreciate the God-infused blessedness in the person or object, guaranteed by the Light that lights the world.

JUNE 21ST: LISA WAITES, CHAPLAIN and Divinity Student....

Campus Ministry, Medicine Hat.

May 8, 2015

Dear Waterton United Church Family and Guests,

Spring has sprung! The arrival of this season seems to signal new chores demanding completion, right alongside the new growth outside our windows! As we prepare the church building for another season of ministry to our church family and friends, let us also prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's love, and to share that love in the community around us.

It is always a great pleasure to visit Waterton National Park, and to serve your congregation by providing weekend supply among you. My family also



enjoys your gracious hospitality and the abundance of natural beauty surrounding the church. Our trip to Waterton is one of the highlights of our summer!

I have just concluded another busy semester as the ecumenical Christian Chaplain at Medicine Hat College. Students of many different ages and backgrounds can find support from the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry in the areas of advocacy, Christian programming, hospitality, and pastoral care. Whether I am assisting students with exam stress or exploring the "big questions" of life with them, serving up free soup lunches for students in need, or participating in a Bible study class, my real job description is to be the hands and feet of Christ among the college community. I seek to serve and honour everyone who comes through the door, regardless of their circumstances or faith background. The contemporary hymn "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours" (MV#171) has become something of a theme song for the campus ministry, but I believe that the words of that hymn are also highly relevant for your congregation as you reach out to the international community around you.

My prayer for Waterton United Church this year is that each of you will experience renewal and rejuvenation in the presence of the Holy One. I am looking forward to seeing you again in June.

May you seek and serve the Lord with joy, receiving God's blessing and extending that blessing to everyone you meet;

May you journey with the poor, and engage the world around you with a profound sense of Christ's mercy and justice;

May you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, and respond with hopeful, peace-filled action. Amen

In Christ,

Lisa Waites, MHECM Chaplain

lisa.waites1@gmail.com

JUNE 28th: MR. DARRELL REINE, L.P.M. (Lay Pastoral Minister)
from Westminster United in Regina



As summer quickly approaches I began to become excited about the time my partner Karen and I will spend in Waterton National Park along with those who come to worship at the United Church. I am on sabbatical at the moment and just spent some time cleaning up the garden from last year's growth. I was reflecting of time spent in Waterton where sometimes it is cool and rainy, something that the weather grew into just after noon forcing me to retreat into the house. Besides leading worship in the wonderful space, just being indoors in Waterton is retreat time. It is a place that nurtures the spirit, a place where body and mind can rest and enjoy whatever it feels like handling at that moment. And we can do that rain or shine in the park. It is both a privilege and honour to be one of the

faces of the United Church of Canada in this place, even if it is only for a short time. During my sabbatical which begin after Easter, I took a trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I learned more about issues of poverty and injustices that happen in our world. It was a reminder to me how life in Canada is one full of immense privileges and we should be giving God our deepest gratitude for the experience that is offered in our lives. And it is a reminder that we who come to the park during the summer can do so freely and without reservation of what will happen to us.

I am reminded of John's gospel when Jesus says unless a grain of wheat falls onto the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. I am hopeful that those of us who worship together in Waterton can be seeds of grain that can be planted and nurtured to offer the world our love and compassion, seeking justice and reconciliation for others and to live out the ministry that the United Church has been called into.

Karen, Bella (our pooch) and I look forward to seeing you in Waterton, so until then, may the blessing of the Holy be with you.

JULY 5th ; REV. BEV DIDUCK, Balgonie U.C., Saskatchewan. Waterton!.....

I lift up my eyes to the hills... the opening line of the well-known *Psalms* 121.

My first experience of Waterton was when I went to the United Church Camp as a teen; later I worked there for a summer as camp co-manager - director. My experiences and the people I met at camp were formative in my life.

I remember the first camp of the year. We had "Christmas in July", with carols and turkey supper.

I look forward to leading worship July 5th in the beauty of the majestic mountains - although I hope it is much warmer this year!



JULY 12TH, DR. ED BARDOCK, PASTORAL SUPERVISOR: Please see his message on page 3.



JULY 19th, MRS. MARIE BARR, Designated Lay Minister (D.LM) serving Ogema/Bengough/Pangman Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan, (and previously a long-serving member of Cardston United Church).

This is God's Wondrous World

As the hymn goes this is God's wondrous world, and we have been blessed to live in one of God's special places - Canada. It is even more special that we have protected Waterton Lakes National Park for all of God's creatures. Not to pat ourselves on the back too hard, though, because there have been changes over the years that are not all good - mostly due to human lack of respect for the rest of creation.

When I began coming to the park there were many deer and we were careful to give them the space they needed to feel safe. Now we have dog patrols to scare them away from town. Sad but necessary for the safety of the deer and of those who visit.

The Park is here for us but first it was here for the wildlife, emphasis on **wild**. As our New Creed states: "We are not alone, we live in God's world." As we (13.

visit and enjoy this jewel of God's creation may we remember the last part of our creed.

"We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation."

As the time to be in the Park grown nearer for me, I anticipate my time there. It is a sacred space for me and I look forward to meeting all of you as we enjoy our time in God's wonderful playground.



JUNE 26th & August 2nd: REV.DR. ALEX LAWSON, now of Victoria.

Alex writes: *Our Children: Christian or Jews?*

It may surprise you to know that we are raising our children as Jews and not Christians. In the Bible there are two very different attitudes toward God. In the Old Testament God was at times loving and kind but could also be cruel and vindictive. He could bless and he could curse. He also controlled nature and diseases, and when displeased he could inflict the person or nation with terrible plagues and diseases and disasters, so the people learned to adapt to God's ways and please him in order that they might prosper. But, along came Jesus who said that isn't so; God causes his sun to shine on the evil and the good and sends his rain on the righteous and unrighteous. *Matthew 5: 45*. And the people on whom the Tower of Siloam fell were no worse than the rest of the people. *Luke 13: 4*. The people of the O.T. learned to adapt to what they thought was God's nature but Jesus tells us that the nature of God is love and we need do nothing to earn or deserve his love. His love is unconditional. Unfortunately, most Christian parents teach their children by using punishment and reward and thus our children assume that our love is conditional and they have to earn our love and adapt to our expectations. So for all of us. We affirm a God who loves us unconditionally but live our lives seeking approval through adapted behavior.

Adapted behavior is striving to be who we think we are supposed to be rather than being the people God made us to be. And, just as in the O.T., it is a never ending struggle. This is sinful living and the outcome is depression, anxiety, feelings of failure, worthlessness, foreboding, low self- esteem, lack of purpose, and all other rotten feelings that rob us of the joy of living, and the accompanying diseases that make our lives miserable.

The most difficult part of childrearing is discipline, and this carries on into the schools and into society. Most of us use punishment and reward in an endeavour to get our children to behave, but it is well established the punishment does not work, it invites (14.

our children to adapt to our will, and has its roots in the O.T. Jesus came to teach us that God's world is not one of punishment and reward, but one of consequences, and science has established that this is so. The wise parent will use consequences to endorse good behavior and deter bad behavior. This is the Gospel message. But parents need skills to relate to their children in New Testament ways. For too long we have given parents the most important task in the world, that of rearing the future generation, but we have not trained them for it. We have assumed that the ability to rear a child comes with the milk. If the Church takes its role in the Baptismal vows seriously it will assist parents in rearing children in the faith by teaching them parenting skills compatible with the teachings of Jesus that they may not only affirm their loyalty to our loving God but enjoy the rewards of the Christian life.

if the church provides family life education, my experience at Minto and McKillop is that over a thousand people who wanted harmony in their homes came in one year to spend thirty hours at the church, This is evangelism in the highest.

Rev. Dr. Alex Lawson. Minister Emeritus, Waterton United Church. Email dralexlawson@gmail.com

AUGUST 9TH, REV. RANDY CROZMAN, from Orchard Valley United Church, Nova Scotia. As a Divinity student, Rev. Randy led services in the combined Waterton & Fishburn-Marr Pastoral Charge in the mid 70s. He is the first from our history of that time to return as guest clergy, and we are honoured to welcome him "home" to Waterton.



Almost a year ago, I had such excitement, during a drive from Calgary to Waterton. It was the first time I had been to Waterton since I was a student minister at the Waterton United Church. It's been so long that I barely remember the exact year – so I'll simply say 'the mid seventies'. Images and memories flooded my mind. Stories were shared with my wife Brenda and her son's partner about relationships, experiences, beauty, and so much more! I felt like a child on Christmas morn.

Now I have been given the privilege of presiding at worship, with those who will gather on August 9th!!!!!!

One way that I have given focus to those student days and now this splendid chance to return is through meditation. After a time of quiet centering, the words of *Nehemiah 9:6* surfaced:

"You alone are the Sovereign. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that in in them.

You give life to everything and the multitudes of heaven worship you." 15.
Next, a time of deepening and opening to what might be offered. . . .

An image, yet deeper – a sense or awareness . . . of the Divine Artist/Creator. A blank canvas and brush ready for desire, design, and movement. . . . and then it all began: incredibly majestic snow capped mountains, pristine waters flowing in harmony with the contours of land beneath . . . brilliantly coloured and intricately patterned crocus bursting into Spring's newness and indian paintbrushes, drawing attention from the heat of a mid summer's day, grass and stone, ram and ant.

I began to recognize the gurgling of the brook cutting through the town . . . deep and threatening rumbles of rock slide miles away and high above . . . the cackling of two magpies perched on a fencepost taunting a passing squirrel a babies cry conversations on the front steps of the shops. Although not in any chronological order, there came also the fragrance of the majestic towering pines . . . sweet smell of wild rose, the taste of wind blown raindrops . . . salty taste of perspiration on my skinand not the least of these sensations, a mysteriously true melody of it all – harmony.

It felt so good! It was good!

Within the period of integration, it became so clear. Yes this is the work of the Creatorbut not separate from . . . no duality Creator and Created are one! Therein lies the praise . . . the awe . . . the wonder. . . .and the joy!

My understanding of God as well as relationship, was truly transformative at Waterton. Thanks be to God!



AUGUST 16TH, Rev. Joyce Sasse Retired minister, writer and story-teller, and key pioneer in the Canadian Rural Church Network.

Almost 60 years ago, when Joyce worked as summer staff in Waterton, Annora Brown was nearing retirement. But the depth and spirit of her wild flower paintings, along with her passion for this Southwest corner of Alberta, were etched in Sasse's memory.

Over the years Joyce has researched and brought to life the biographical details of Brown – the pioneer artist, writer, botanist and ecologist whose home was Fort Macleod (1900 – 1967).

In the context of worship at the August 16th service, Joyce will invite those in attendance to revisit some of Annora's favorite haunts. We want to try to understand her insistence that this "magnificent, unique, wild landscape" must be treasured and preserved. "When I look deep into the heart of a flower I feel as if a presence surrounds me, as if the spirits of the earth were coming out to share this moment with me."

- Books by Annora Brown: "Old Man's Garden" & "Sketches From Life"
- Along with several oil paintings, the Glenbow Museum has a commissioned collection of her water colour paintings in their archives. They requested 16.

that she paint 200 wild flowers of Western Canada, “particularly the rarer flowers peculiar to the foothills and mountains”.

- Following a Glenbow Wild Flower Exhibit in 1972, a reviewer wrote “Annora Brown is the hand of the flower sower and the eye of time, for when the lily blossoms no more, should man yet be alive, she will review for him the glory that was, and advise him of the glory to be”.
- With help from a few private collectors, we hope to have some of her paintings on display at the service.



(Above are photos of two exquisite works by Annora Brown, which were on display at a featured event organized by Rev. Sasse in the Waterton United Church in 2009.)



AUGUST 23rd , PASTOR DR. GEORGE TAKASHIMA,: Pastor George is retired in Lethbridge, most recently from Cardston-Magrath Pastoral Charge,

REFLECTION Over the years, many people have asked this question: “Is going to church necessary?” Now in recent years, the question is “Is church necessary?” Of course, we know that church attendance and indeed, church membership, is declining. In recent years, we in The United Church of Canada have been

closing church buildings; its memberships have been attending other churches or stopped attending church. Some have also been exploring other religious groups and see what they have to offer.

I read an interesting article in one of the American Christian journals not too long ago. In a 2013 survey

by the Barna Group, over 3,000 American adults were asked what they thought about going to church.

About 30 % of Americans said attending church is very important (lower percentage in our country). About 40 % were ambivalent about attending church, and 30 % said attending church is not important at all. Those who were ambivalent about 17.

attending church gave two top reasons for their ambivalence: “I find God elsewhere” (40 %) and it is not “personally relevant” (35 %).

Millennials who are opting out of church cite the following three factors with equal weight in their decision: the moral failures of church leaders, hypocrisy, and the church’s irrelevance. 20 % of Millennials say that “God is missing” from church and 10 % sense that doubt is prohibited. Also, when asked to list “What made your faith grow?” the church did not even make the top ten.

Now I find these survey results – albeit American but similar results can be found in our country – start-ling. We have the presence of a church building right here in Waterton Park and we have loyal members and supporters . So what makes church special? Why should we be a part of a church? Maybe we would save time, effort and money by being a Christian on our own. Then again, can we be a Christian by ourselves in isolation?

Perhaps this is a good time to wonder and to ponder on the necessity of church.

AUGUST 30th, Rev. Nancy Nourse, Northminster United Church, Calgary

REFLECTION, APRIL 2015

The wind turbines in nearby Pincher Creek, the trees that grow at an angle near the beach, the rocks at the water’s edge rubbed smooth by the never-ending whitecaps that crash on the shore – all signs and reminders of the persistent wind in the Waterton area. One summer we camped at the town sight campground – in a tent. One minute it was calm and quiet. The next minute the wind would hit our tent so forcefully that it would push it right down onto us as we were tucked into our sleeping bags. The playpen in which our toddler slept was pushed from one side of the space to the other. Then suddenly all was calm again and all was still, and the tent sprung back into its original shape...until the next gust moved in off the water.

The wind in the mountains is like that. It can be so still and quiet, and then the wind creeps up in such unpredictable ways. Hikers in Waterton National Park know this, and the most prepared ones likely take note of weather reports, changes in the sky, and what direction the wind is come from as they journey. Some breezes are so gentle we hardly acknowledge them, and they are refreshing. Other gusts seem to sneak around the corner and surprise and challenge us...even take our breath away.

In *Acts 2:1-2* it says “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house.” The spirited Breath of God had crept into their place of gathering and energized the people that day and sent them out. It moved them not only physically, but it moved their hearts to go and be God’s people in the world. It 18.



transformed them. It inspired them. From there, they went forward to live out God's vision in their world.

As you enjoy Waterton this year, be aware of Breath of God in your midst. You might think you are ready for it like the most prepared mountain hiker, and you already know how God will move you. Perhaps. Or maybe there will be surprising and unexpected gusts that will push you in a direction you never thought possible. Be in awe. Let it take your breath away. Allow for God's Spirit to move within the deepest spaces of your heart. Be prayerful of how it might be renewing and energizing you to being God's presence and goodness in the world.



**SEPTEMBER 6TH: REV.DR. AUSTIN FENNEL
Lethbridge. with the McKillop U.C. Choir**

A TRIBUTE TO CHURCH MUSICIANS

Joan Croskery, a long time resident and cottage owner in Waterton town, was the first organist of the new McKillop United Church., She passed away on April 26 in Lethbridge. We were reminded by Terry Shillington who conducted the Memorial Service of the endurance of church organists, coming out to play at each Sunday Service regardless of the weather and the worthiness of the sermon.

Marilyn Sinclair, currently organist at McKillop, is the accompanist for the McKillop Senior choir when it will sing at the Waterton Church Service on Sunday Sept. 6. She has been the organist at the church since 1981. She is the delight of any choir conductor for her ability to anticipate the need of any choir section to rehearse a part in the music with which it has difficulty. Her vast repertoire of music for preludes, offertories and postludes comes from the need created by many situations where she is required to play, and her resources as a piano teacher. She is a member of the Lethbridge Music Teachers' Association. She is an adjudicator at various Music Festivals.

Ken Rogers has been the choir director for McKillop Senior choir since 1996. Together with his parents and siblings, they are long time members of the church and members of the choir. Ken is the band director for the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, and the band director for the Lethbridge Community Gold Band. He is one of the "Five Singing Guys" who periodically entertain in support of various charities and causes, and a singing member of "The Chinook Chamber Choir". His preferred instrument is the trombone. He and Fran Rude prepared and presented musicals in support of the Lethbridge Symphony Association, as their contribution of the Orchestra's survival.

Whatever would we do without Carol Watt who is ready to play at the Waterton Church services whenever she is needed? We thank her too for being a church musician . -- Jean & Austin Fennel

SEPTEMBER 13th: MR. BRYAN HUSTON, Certified Lay Leader from Southminster United Church in Lethbridge will return to lead our last summer service of the season. His 2015 newsletter message is on page 10. **We will celebrate the closing of the summer season that day with a pot luck luncheon: everyone welcome!**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, REV. BRENT WOODARD of Pincher Creek Pastoral Charge. Brent's leadership was very well received at the Candlelight Service last December, and he will return with another Christmas message in December. Brent writes:

"It is said by many spiritual teachers that we, as humans, "suffer from a case of mistaken identity." Who we think we are, is not really who we are in our essence. Our mental self-image is just an idea in our head – which means it is precarious, insubstantial and false. Spiritual awakening is realizing and feeling who we are in our depths. We go from being a little "I" to being the greater "I Am." Jesus knew his "I Am-ness," his oneness with God. We could say he knew himself as "the Christ-consciousness." What Jesus realized for himself he wanted all people to know for themselves. Paul got there (or the Spirit got him there) when he wrote "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." We follow a spiritual path so that we can awaken to our true identity. What else could be more important, for us and for those with whom we live?"



THE CHURCH AT LARGE

*****Have you considered subscribing to the **United Church OBSERVER**? It is the oldest, continuously published magazine in North America, and a lively way to be in touch with the United Church of Canada, from sea to sea to sea. **The Observer** is also an ideal gift for "non-church" friends who may still be interested.

.....**subscribe@ucobserver.org** or write to 478 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2R3



A NOTE ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCH CREST: In 2012 , the United Church Crest, which has contained symbols for the founding denominations of the United Church of Canada since 1925, was updated in a tribute to aboriginal Canadians. The traditional colours of the aboriginal medicine wheel, yellow, black, red and white, were incorporated, as were the Mohawk words for “All my relations:” *Akwe nia’ tetewa : neren*. Aboriginal members of the UC General Council chose the Mohawk phrase as representative of them all. A long, spontaneous standing ovation followed the passing of the motion. May the sensitive work of truth and reconciliation continue to build bridges of wisdom and faithful partnerships.

*******COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW PARTICIPATION*******

As you may be aware, in 2012 the United Church of Canada initiated a thorough, thoughtful review. Every Pastoral Charge was invited to give feedback. Well over 1/3 did so, and a nucleus from our Council met to brainstorm and prepare our response **If anyone is interested in reading the notes from our meetings, please let us know.**

Subsequent feedback from the Moderator stated that the number of pastoral charges which are considering closing or amalgamating in the near future is **balanced by** the number which are thriving with innovative, inspiring ways of worship and outreach. Both groups comprise about 25% of those responding. Thus there is hope, and an evolving vision of how we will go forward. There is also gained experience in supporting those who are facing closure of beloved sacred spaces.

Re amalgamation: In the Maritimes, five small churches amalgamated, with the surprising results that their new joint congregation was **greater in numbers** than the original totals. In Calgary, one congregation sold their building, rented office space, and is currently sharing clergy leadership and space with a sister congregation, while becoming able to expand their community work and outreach. Comprehensive review is a vital work in progress, and we expect news from the next General Council Meeting which is scheduled for this summer. We can look forward to structural changes and re-organization as the United Church of Canada moves faithfully and prayerfully into the future.

Building and Maintaining Mission and Service Programs:

.....Please raise up the church’s M&S programs and those who support them in your prayers. People across this country and around the globe are praying, preaching, teaching, caring, healing, and creating because of your support and that of the people in your congregation. Thank you for inviting people to express their compassion, 21.

build community, and offer hope by giving to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada. Thank you!” (Excerpts from the Stewardship Office of the M&S Department of the United Church of Canada, Easter Message to all pastoral charges.

THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE....GLIMPSES OF FAITH IN ACTION....



MESSAGE FROM WATERTON UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL:

We appreciate many people at all levels of the United Church of Canada for their on-going support and encouragement of this “faith family” and for the countless visitors who pass through and find sanctuary. Heartfelt thanks are extended to all who have supported so generously in our goal of maintaining our finances as we undertake several up-grading projects. Each one of you is a blessing in the life of this little church. May we continue to offer sanctuary and inspiration to all who enter in, and to those who cherish memories of doing so.

“What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?” Micah VI: 8

And, “The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the Lord Make His Face to Shine Upon You,, and Be Gracious Unto You, the Lord lift up His Countenance Upon You, and Give You Peace.”The Aaronic Blessing, Numbers VI, 24 – 26



Sofa & Vimy Reflection